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Naval Postgraduate School Board of Advisors: President Graham B. Spanier

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Naval Postgraduate School Board of Advisors



President Graham B. Spanier
Pennsylvania State University

Graham Spanier has often been described as an "unconventional" university president. He loves spending time with students. He is a magician and faculty advisor to the Penn State Performing Magicians, has performed with Penn State's Musical Theatre students, the marching band and the glee club, and occasionally substitutes for the Nittany Lion mascot.

He has a commercial pilot's license, plays the washboard with the Deacons of Dixieland, and he and his racquetball partner are the reigning Penn State co-ed intramural champions. He is the host of "To the Best of My Knowledge," the live, listener-call-in program on Public Television and Radio.

But most of his time is spent overseeing one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive universities, with 36,000 employees on 24 campuses, an annual budget of \$2.7 billion, and a physical plant of 1,300 buildings.

Since he was appointed Penn State's 16th president in 1995, Dr. Spanier has been the guiding force behind several historic academic initiatives, including the creation of The Schreyer Honors College, the Penn State World Campus, the School of Information Sciences and Technology, and the development of consortia in the Life Sciences, Materials Sciences, Environmental Sciences, and Children, Youth, and Families. He

oversaw Penn State's merger with The Dickinson School of Law and has promoted increased internationalization of the University.

President Spanier reoriented the University's system of campuses to provide greater flexibility in meeting local community needs and elevated Penn State Cooperative Extension to expand outreach to citizens of Pennsylvania. He oversaw Penn State's recently completed Grand Destiny Campaign, which raised nearly \$1.4 billion.

Dr. Spanier's prior positions include chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Oregon State University, and vice provost for undergraduate studies at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He previously served Penn State from 1973-1982 as a member of the faculty and in three administrative positions in what now is Penn State's College of Health and Human Development. He holds academic appointments as professor of human development and family studies, sociology, demography, and family and community medicine.

A distinguished researcher and scholar, he has more than 100 scholarly publications, including 10 books. He is a family sociologist, demographer, and marriage and family therapist. He earned his Ph.D. in sociology from Northwestern University, where he was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, and his bachelor's and master's degrees from Iowa State University.

A national leader in higher education, Dr. Spanier served as chair of the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, is chair of the Big Ten Conference Council of Presidents/Chancellors, serves on the Higher Education Advisory Board for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and is vice chair of the Worldwide Universities Network. He served as chair of the NCAA Division I Board of Directors, chaired the Kellogg Commission on the Future of State and Land-Grant Universities, served on the Board of Trustees of the National 4-H Council, is on the board of the Universities Research Association, was a founding member of the Board of Directors of the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (Internet2), was president of the National Council on Family Relations, was chairman of the Board of Directors of the Christian Children's Fund, and is a member of the Board of Advisors of the Naval Postgraduate School.

His wife, Sandra, an English professor specializing in 20th-century American literature, serves as the general editor of Hemingway's letters. They have two children: Brian is a recent graduate of Penn State and Hadley is a junior majoring in marketing at Penn State.